

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 ACDA-10 /079 W
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FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4610
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN
AMEMBASSY BONN
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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, WB
SUBJECT: BERLIN FDP CHAIRMAN RE-ELCTED

1. AT 32ND PARTY CONGRESS OF BERLIN FREE DEMOCRATIC PARTY (FDP) ON MAY 13 AND 14, 1977, MAYOR WOLFGANG LUEDER WAS RE-ELECTED BERLIN PARTY CHAIRMAN FOR TWO MORE YEARS. HE RECEIVED 170 OUT OF 272 VOTES, ONE OF BEST RESULTS OF ALL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS. DEPUTY CHAIRMEN HERMANN OXFORT (132 VOTES) AND ERWIN LOSSMANN (179 VOTES)-- REPRESENTING REIGHT AND LEFT-WINGS RESPECTIVELY--WERE ALSO RE-ELECTED AS WERE ALL OTHER MEMBERS OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, EXCEPT VICE PRESIDENT OF BERLIN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES KARL-HEINZ BAETGE WHO, SURPRISINGLY, WAS DEFEATED BY SABINE NEHLS, A 37 YEAR-OLD NEWCOMER. FRAU NEHOLS IS FIRST WOMAN ELECTED TO FDP PARTY BOARD IN A NUMBER OF YEARS, SHE HAS SAID THAT SHE WILL NTO AFFILIATE WITH RIGHT OR LEFT-WINGS BUT "FIGHT FOR THE EMANCIPATION OF WOMEN IN POLITICS".

2. IN STATEMENTS ON FUTURE POLICY OF BERLIN FDP, LUEDER AND PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS CHAIRMAN HORST VETTER, TRIED TO PUT SOME POLICTICAL DISTANCE BETWEEN
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THE FDP AND THE SPD. BOTH PROMISED TO FIGHT MORE VIGOROUSLY THAN IN PAST TO ELEIMINATE CRONYISM FROM CITY ADMINISTRATION AND EXPRESSED REGRET THAT MANY PROMISES MADE DURING 1975 ELECTION CAMPAIGN HAD NOT YET BEEN REALIZED, DUE IN PART, THEY SAID, TO SPD'S INTERNAL DIFFICULTIES WHICH HANDICAPPED COALITION POLITICAL ACTIVITIES. LUEDER ARGUED THAT

IT HAD BEEN LIBERAL PARTY WHICH HAD PROVIDED BERLIN COALITION WITH STABILITY IT NEEDED IN ORDER TO SURVIVE OVER PAST TWO YEARS, AND CLAIMED PARTY WOULD BE THE "GLUE" WHICH CONTINUES TO HOLD THE COALITION TOGETHER IN THE FUTURE. BOTH VETTER AND LUEDER ASSURED PARTY DELEGATES THAT "AT PRESENT" AND THERE WERE NO ALTERNATIVES TO SOCIAL-LIBERAL COALITION AND STATED THAT COALITION WITH CDU WAS UNTHINKABLE BECAUSE OF "LACK OF CDU LEADERSHIP QUALITIES AND PROGRAMS."

3. SPEAKING ON DOWNFALL OF GOVERNING MAYOR SCHUETZ, LUEDER CLAIMED THAT FDP HAD NOT WISHED TO SEE HIM RESIGN. PARTY HAD FELT, AND CONTINUED TO FEEL, HOWEVER, THAT CLEAN GOVERNMENT REQUIRED FILLING PUBLIC OFFICES WITH MEN WHOSE PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL LIVES WERE ABOVE REPROACH. THUS, SENATOR NEUBAUER HAD TO GO.

4. IN OPEN REFERENCE TO SENATOR FOR FEDERAL AFFAIRS HORST KORBER'S POSITION AS PRESIDENT OF BERLIN SPORTS FEDERATION, LUEDER SAID THAT FDP HAD ONLY ADVISED SPD THAT CONFLICT OF INTEREST MIGHT BE INVOLVED. FDP WOULD NOT INTERFERE IN INTERNAL PERSONNEL MATTERS OF ITS COALITION PARTNER, LUEDER SAID, BUT WOULD CONTINUE TO SPEAK OUT WITHIN COALITION AND SOMETIMES PUBLICLY WHEN QUESTIONS OF PRINCIPLE AROSE IN SUCH MATTERS. LATER IN HIS SPEECH HOWEVER LUEDER MADE SEVERAL ELLIPTICAL COMMENTS WHICH IMPLIED REGRET THAT FDP HAD GONE OUT ON A LIMB IN KORBER MATTER, UNCLASSIFIED

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WHILE AT SAME TIME NOTING IT COULD NOT BACK DOWN ONCE IT HAD MADE A PUBLIC ISSUE OF CASE.

5. MANY PARTY DELEGATES ATTACKED FEDERAL MINISTER FOR THE INTERIOR WERNER MAIHOFER (FDP) VERY SHARPLY BECAUSE OF RECENT "BUGGING" SCANDAL AND UNANIMOUSLY PASSED A RESOLUTION AGAINST SUPERVISING THE CONTACTS BETWEEN CRIMINALS AND THEIR DEFENDING COUNSELS. TO LOUD APPLAUSE FROM DELEGATES, SENATOR FOR JUSTICE PROFESSOR JUERGEN BAUMANN STATED THAT AS LONG AS HE WAS IN OFFICE IN BERLIN, THERE WOULD BE NO BUGGING IN BERLIN PRISONS.

6. APART FROM HIGH POINTS NOTED ABOVE, FDP CONGRESS WAS RATHER DULL AFFAIR. GOERGE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 20-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770532/aaaabbzs.tel
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TAGS: PGOV, PINT, WB, (LUEDER, WOLFGANG)
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